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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 4, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21-45.

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC) would like to nominate Dr. Brian Talbott to remain in his role as representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts. Dr. Talbott has served on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors for five years, most recently as chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee which oversees E-Rate.

With his current service on the board, Dr. Talbott has demonstrated dedication to the success of E-Rate program, by ensuring that the program remains effective. He has worked with the USAC Board of Directors to add sensible administrative changes to ease operation of the program. In addition, Dr. Talbott has been very involved in reduced the number of back logged appeals and working to find timely remedies where possible.

Our coalition which is comprised of representatives of both private and public schools, feels that Dr. Talbott has been a strong advocate on behalf of our community. His breadth of experience with respect to the educational use of telecommunications is commendable and Dr. Talbott maintains a high level of credibility with the constituency he represents on the USAC board. He has had a wide range of experience in working with both public and private schools through his work in the Educational Service Agencies and his position on the board of various boards of directors shows he is committed to all aspects of education.

EdLiNC strongly believes that the continued mission of the USAC Board of Directors will be well served by Dr. Talbott's presence. We urge the commission to reappoint Dr. Talbott to serve as the representative of the eligible schools on the USAC Board.

If we can provide you more information about his credentials, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Kusler, EdLiNC Chair at 703-875-0733.

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Sincerely,

American Association of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Library Association
Associational of Educational Service Agencies
Consortium for School Networking
Council of Great City Schools
International Society for Technology in Education
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Catholic Educational Association
National Education Association
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
Rural Schools and Community Trust

Brian L. Talbott, Ph.D.

Serves as the National Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs). He is responsible for supporting and strengthening regional service agencies by serving as the national voice for educational service agencies; providing professional growth opportunities, technical assistance, advocacy and research. He also helps member agencies promote, distribute and leverage their knowledge, products and services. Appointed by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board where he serves on the Rural Health Care Committee and chairs the Schools and Libraries Committee that oversees the e-rate. Dr. Talbott serves on the advisory board for Reading is Fundamental and serves as a board member for the United States Distance Learning Association. Brian served as superintendent of Educational Service District 101 where he was responsible for the operation of all programs, providing cooperative services to 59 public school districts and 54 private schools in Eastern Washington. As the agency's chief executive, he served as general manager of the STEP/Star Network, one of the nation's oldest and largest distance learning networks. In addition to serving as an ESA superintendent for 21 years, Brian served as a secondary teacher, coach, vice principal, principal, local school district superintendent and a university instructor. He received numerous state and national awards for his educational leadership, including the 1995 Educational Administrator of the Year Award, and the 1998 Washington Association of School Administrators Golden Gavel Award, which is presented for outstanding contributions of lasting value to public education in the State of Washington. Ph.D., Education Administration, University of Idaho; M.A., Education Administration, Seattle University; B.A., Education, University of Washington.